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REMARKS

Claims 15 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 7-9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hobson et al. Claims 1, 7-9, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of the prior art of figure 1. Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Szucs et al in view of the prior art of figure 1. Claims 3-6, 11 and 14 stand objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 17 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and addressing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 18 - 20 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner's thorough review is most appreciated. In view of the above amendment and following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and allow the present application to issue.

With regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 15 and 18 have been amended to clarify the text in accord with the Examiner's comments thereto. With regard to the rejections based upon prior art, the present amendment incorporates the features of claim 3, indicated as allowable, into claim 1. Dependency was corrected in claim 4. The features of original claim 5, including the appropriate content from dependency to include claims 2 and 1, indicated as allowable, are incorporated into newly added claim 21 without substantive revision. Dependency was corrected in claim 6. The features of original claim 11, including the appropriate content from dependency to include claims 2 and 1, indicated as allowable, are incorporated into newly added claim 22 without substantive revision. The features of original claim 14, including the appropriate content from dependency to include claims 10, 9, and 1, indicated as allowable, are incorporated into newly added claim 23 without substantive revision.

New claim 24 has been added which directly incorporates the novel features of claim 1, but rewritten in new language which is believed to more explicitly recite one aspect of the novelty of the present invention. New claims 25 and 26 which depend from claim 24 are

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believed to further define that novelty.

In view of the present amendment, claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, and 18 - 26 are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the present amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of record and allow the present application to issue. No new matter is introduced. However, should there remain any open issues in this application which might be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 320-363-7296 to further discuss the advancement of this application. Please charge all fees associated with this correspondence to deposit account 17-0155.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert W. Watkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert W. Watkins

reg. 31,676